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April 3, 2003

Presentation to Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Whitman

Subject: Don't Weaken Clean Air Protections, Drop the "Senior Death Discount"

My name is Joan M. Deguire:

I am speaking today as the Florida Representative of Rep America --- Republicans for Environmental Protection.

We have been concerned because this administration has exhibited a tendency of catering to the large corporations and industry and has shown a lack of concern for our environment.

This is Florida, the land of fresh air and sunshine. At least that is what our Chamber of Commerce tells our disappearing tourist trade. Their brochures never mention the decrepit old power plants that have outlived their life expectency but are still belching black soot out of their stacks. Finally, after years of threats and public intervention they are in the process of cleaning up their act. The process has started – but will it continue?

Under the Bush Administration approach, the so called "Clean Skies Initiative", polluters would be allowed to emit more of the smog and soot forming pollution over a longer period of time than the current law. The Administration 's air pollution bill introduced in Congress last month proposed to exempt power plants, the largest industrial source of air pollution from Clean Air Act requirements and delays the dates when areas would be required to come into compliance with national air quality standards.

The EPA use of a new cost-benefit methodology used when evaluating a given public health protection is worthwhile. The Bush Administration's proposed formula assumes a value for saving the life of someone over retirement age at just 63% of the value of saving the life of a younger person. Justifying the relaxation of public health protections

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